Science, Service, Stewardship

NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE Southwest Fisheries Science Center

The La Jolla Laboratory Consolidation Project

Plans for the new Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC) laboratory in La Jolla are rapidly advancing with construction expected to begin in 2010. The building will incorporate a large sea- and fresh-water Ocean Technology Development Tank and state-of-the-art laboratories for biotechnology, photogrammetry, life history and necropsy. The building will also house experimental aquaria and the world's largest collections of California Current ichthyoplankton and tissue samples for marine mammal and marine turtle genetics. The new SWFSC facility will be a focal point for surveys and assessments of Pacific transboundary species, the development and application of ecosystem-based approaches to management, research on the impacts of environmental variability and climate change on marine ecosystems, and fisheries and conservation socio-economics.

The new laboratory will be located on the campus of Scripps Institution of Oceanography at UC San Diego, across La Jolla Shores Drive from the existing SWFSC facility. The co-location strengthens valuable educational and research partnerships. NOAA is pursuing certification of the building under the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System. Funding for the project is provided under the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act.

The Ocean Technology Development Tank: Pioneering Advanced Fisheries and Protected Species Survey Technologies

With the construction of the Ocean Technology Development Tank, the SWFSC will be able to further its pioneering work in the development and use of acoustical and optical technologies for non-lethal surveys of protected and managed species and for the detection of near-surface fish schools (such as sardine) during ship-based surveys. The test tank will support ecosystem-based fisheries management through new and innovative technological applications: novel platforms for deploying instrumented buoys, remotely operated vehicles (ROV) and autonomous underwater vehicles (AUV), gliders, untethered profilers, drifters and floats. This world-class facility will expand NOAA's ability to develop and apply advanced technologies for surveys of marine resources and their associated ecosystems and to foster national and international collaborations on fisheries management issues.

Architect's rendering of the new SWFSC headquarters in La Jolla on the campus of Scripps Institution of Oceanography, UC San Diego

SWFSC Advanced Survey Technologies Sensor and Platform Development - instrumented small craft, instrumented buoys and towed arrays, autonomous underwater vehicles and remotely operated vehicles

http://swfsc.noaa.gov